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SECURITY INFORMATION

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

10 May 1952

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Proposed National Intelligence Estimate on the Outlook for Italy

1. No NIE has yet been written on Italian problems. Such an estimate was included in the estimative program recently approved by the Board of National Estimates after discussion with the NSC Senior Staff and with IAC representatives. (See para. 2 d, Board Program of National Estimates for Remainder of 1952, dated 5 May 1952.)

2. Recent political trends in Italy, one of the key NATO countries, give cause for some concern. The present Christian Democratic government of Prime Minister De Gasperi has been under increasing pressure from both right and left and has lost some strength. An important question which will increasingly concern the US policy-makers is whether this center government will survive the national elections now scheduled for the spring of 1953 or what alternative regime might emerge. The problems created should Italy become governed by a rightist or leftist-dominated coalition, or by a weakened and unstable centrist minority, would directly affect Italy's participation in NATO and European integration as well as other US security interests.

3. In addition to the short range prospects for the next national elections, the Board of National Estimates believes that it is also desirable to assess the longer range prospects for the development of Italian political stability and economic viability as a component of NATO, or alternatively, for any adverse developments which might weaken Italy and affect its present orientation. For these reasons the Board believes that an NIE on Italy should be initiated with a "Routine" priority and a target date of 1 September.

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DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. L  
X DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 3-31-81 REVIEWER

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4. The Board suggests that this estimate be "open-ended" and cover not only the period prior to the 1953 elections but as far beyond as feasible.

5. RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the members of the IAC notify the undersigned by telephone [redacted] if they approve initiation of the following estimate:

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NIE-71: THE PROBABLE OUTLOOK FOR ITALY

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[redacted]  
Executive Secretary

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